



Beginning Research in Luxembourg

Fritz Juengling Ph.D., AG®
juenglingcf@familysearch.org

SOME IMPORTANT DATES

1568–1648 The Eighty Years' War Low Countries divided into the northern United Provinces and the Southern Netherlands, more or less Belgium and Luxembourg
1556–1714 Southern Provinces under the rule of Spain, i.e. the Spanish Netherlands
1714-1797 Southern Provinces under the rule of Austria, i.e. the Austrian Netherlands
1794-1815 Austrian Netherlands invaded and controlled by France (although the Southern Netherlands were formally annexed by France, Austria did not relinquish claim until 1797)
1814- Under the Treaty of Paris transforms Luxembourg into a Grand Duchy in personal Union with the Netherlands
1815-1830 Reunification of the Low Countries as the United Kingdom of the Netherlands
1830-1839 Belgian Revolution results in partition of Luxembourg, with most of going to Belgium and becoming the province of Luxembourg

CHURCH AND CIVIL REGISTRATION

Records in the earliest time period are church records, primarily Catholic. Many will be in Latin, although some will be in French or German.

In 1792 civil registration of births, marriages, and deaths was introduced in France. With the French taking over control of the Southern Netherlands, this system was established in Luxembourg between 1795 and 1798.

Civil registration records include births, various record sets associated with marriage, divorces, deaths, and various indexes. The records were kept in duplicate sets. One set of records remained in the municipality, the other was sent to the provincial archive. Records less than 100 years old are protected by rights-to-privacy laws and can only be accessed by direct descendants.

The language of civil records will be French or German. There might also be some elements of Luxembourgish, which is a Franconian dialect of German, but has become a national language of Luxembourg.

RESOURCES

- FamilySearch.org <https://familysearch.org/> This site contains many church and civil records, many of which are indexed with images. This is a first stop when searching for civil registration in the 19th century.

How to find records in FamilySearch.org

1. Go to FamilySearch.org
2. Hover on 'Search'
3. Scroll down and click on 'Records'
4. The Records main page will appear. On the map click 'Eurasia.'
5. Choose 'Luxembourg.' This produces a list of indexed and image-only records. A camera icon indicates collections that include images.
6. Find a Collection – There are two sub-sections here: 1) 'Luxembourg Indexed Historical Records' where you can search for indexed records for a specific province (you may need to click on 'Show all 6 Collections' in order to find the province that you want). If you choose indexed records, you can enter a name into the search boxes in order to find a record of that person, and 2) 'Luxembourg Image Only Historical Records' where you will have to browse in the specific collection.

The online collections include church, civil, census, and notarial records.

The catalog lists books and other records that are only on film.

- Luxembourg American Cultural Society & Center <http://www.lacs.lu/>
- For maps and gazetteers, download the handout to the class "Gazetteers and Maps for Belgium, Luxembourg, and the Netherlands" found on this page:
https://familysearch.org/wiki/en/Family_History_Library_Classes_and_Webinars

SOLVING A PLACE NAME DILEMMA

- Fuzzy Gazetteer <http://isodp.hof-university.de/fuzzyg/query/>
- Wikipedia https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Main_Page